

Message Text

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47

ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 AID-05 MC-02 ACDA-10 IO-10 OMB-01

IGA-01 /088 W

----- 011415

O 221356Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7063

INFO USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS NEW DELHI 2494 SECTION 1 OF 2

BANGKOK FOR AMBASSADOR SAXBE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IN,PK,US

SUBJECT: PRESS COVERAGE ON POSSIBLE LIFTING OF US ARMS EMBARGO TO
PAKISTAN

BEGIN SUMMARY: SOME NEW DELHI DAILIES REPORTED FEBRUARY 22 THAT
AMBASSADOR SAXBE IS DELAYED IN BANGKOK. THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL
AFFAIRS SPOKESMAN SATURDAY SAID THE GOI WAS NOTIFIED FRIDAY OF THE
SAXBE DELAY, BUT DID NOT KNOW THE REASON. RAJYA SABHA (UPPER
HOUSE) WAS INFORMED YESTERDAY THAT US HAS NOT YET TAKEN DECISION
TO LIFT EMBARGO. MEDIA HIGHLIGHTED DEFENSE MINISTER SWARAN SINGH'S
WARNING THAT ARMING OF PAKISTAN WILL HINDER PEACE IN SUBCONTI-
NENT. AMBASSADOR KAUL'S WASHINGTON REACTION TO POSSIBLE LIFTING
OF EMBARGO WAS PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED. THERE WERE
NO EDITORIALS BUT STATESMAN CARRIED LENGTHY DISPATCH ON AMERICA'S
REASONS FOR ARMING PAKISTAN. END SUMMARY.

1. FOUR LEADING NEWSPAPERS CARRIED A SHORT BANGKOK DISPATCH THAT
AMBASSADOR SAXBE'S ARRIVAL IN INDIA IS POSTPONED. TYPICAL HEAD-
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LINE: "SAXBE'S ARRIVAL POSTPONED" (TIMES OF INDIA).

2. BASED ON AN ASSOCIATED PRESS REPORT, THE STORY QUOTES AMBASSADOR SAXBE THAT THE DELAY IS NOT DUE TO ILLNESS AS ANNOUNCED BY THE EMBASSY IN NEW DELHI. "WE'RE GOING TO STAY HERE FOR FOUR OR FIVE DAYS," THE DISPATCH QUOTES, "MAYBE THEN WE'RE GOING ON."

3. IN A TELETYPE DISPATCH TODAY THE PRESS TRUST OF INDIA TOLD SUBSCRIBERS THAT THE UNEXPECTED POSTPONEMENT "HAS CAUSED SURPRISE IN DIPLOMATIC CIRCLES HERE" AND NOTED THAT THE DELAY FOLLOWS ANNOUNCEMENT BY SENIOR OFFICIALS IN WASHINGTON THAT "US IS PREPARING TO GO AHEAD WITH LIMITED CASH SALES OF MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO PAKISTAN AND THAT...RELAXATION OF ARMS EMBARGO IS EXPECTED EARLY NEXT WEEK."

4. ALL INDIA RADIO IN ITS LEAD NEWSCAST ITEM THIS MORNING ALSO OF LIMITED CASH SALES AND LIFTING OF US EMBARGO IS EXPECTED SOON.

5. SEVERAL DAILIES BRIEFLY NOTED THE DEPUTY EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER B.P. DAS INFORMED THE UPPER HOUSE THAT US HAS NOT YET TAKEN FINAL DECISION ON RESUMPTION OF ARMS AID TO PAKISTAN. TYPICAL HEADLINE: "US STILL TO DECIDE ON ARMS FOR PAK" (HINDUSTAN TIMES).

6. BASED ON PRESS TRUST OF INDIA AND UNITED NEWS OF INDIA WIRE-SERVICES, NEWSACCOUNTS SAID THE MINISTER ALSO TOLD THE HOUSE THAT INDIA HAD CONVEYED TO US THE POSSIBLE REPERCUSSIONS IN SUBCONTINENT OF RESUMPTION OF ARMS SUPPLIES.

7. THREE NEWSPAPERS LED, OTHERS PROMINENTLY FRONT-PAGED, DEFENSE MINISTER SWARAN SINGH'S UPPER HOUSE STATEMENT THAT CHINA IS SUPPLYING ARMS TO PINDI. SOME HEADLINES: "INDIA AWARE OF CHINESE ARMS SUPPLY TO PINDI" (INDIAN EXPRESS); "CHINESE ARMS FOR PINDI WILL HIT NORMALISATION" (STATESMAN); "SIZABLE ARMS SUPPLIES BY PEKING TO PINDI" (NATIONAL HERALD).

8. BASED ON PRESS TRUST OF INDIA WIRE REPORTS, STORY SAID SWARAN SINGH TOLD THE HOUSE THAT CHINA HAS BEEN SUPPLYING "SIZEABLE QUANTITIES OF ARMS" TO PAKISTAN, ADDING THAT "ARMING OF PAKISTAN FROM WHATEVER SOURCE WOULD COME IN THE WAY OF NORMALIZATION UNCLASSIFIED

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OF RELATIONS BETWEEN PAKISTAN AND INDIA AND THE ESTABLISHMENT OF DURABLE PEACE IN THE SUBCONTINENT".

9. AMBASSADOR KAUL'S WASHINGTON STATEMENT, URGING THAT COUNTRIES IN THE SUBCONTINENT BE "LEFT ALONE" TO SETTLE THEIR PROBLEMS WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERVENTION, WAS PROMINENTLY CARRIED BY MEDIA. NEWSPAPER HEADLINES WERE SIMILAR: "LEAVE INDIA ALONE, KAUL TELLS USA" (TIMES OF INDIA).

10. PRESS TRUST OF INDIA NEWSREPORTS QUOTED AMBASSADOR KAUL THAT
LIFTING OF EMBARGO WOULD MEAN THE US "DOES NOT ATTACH SUFFICIENT
IMPORTANCE TO THE SIMLA PROCESS OR TO INDO-AMERICAN
FRIENDSHIP".SCHNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 22 FEB 1975
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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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